

Appendix to Birnie

No F 453, Rev.

" Family of France &
Tulle, D. D. by

Two men,

Mary Anne Tulle
1860.

Henry Martyn Field

THE FIELDS IN ENGLAND,

AND ANCESTRY OF THE FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES.

[APPENDIX TO A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF REV. DAVID D. FIELD, D. D.]

SINCE the foregoing pages were printed, I have received additional information in regard to the FIELDS in England, and the ancestry of the branches of the family that came to this country.

OSGOOD FIELD, Esq., an American gentleman, long resident in London,* in the intervals of active business, has devoted a good deal of research to inquiring into the ancestry of the FIELDS who came to America more than two hundred years ago. After reading the previous account, he writes as follows:

"At page 1 it is stated that the name of DE LA FELD or FIELD can be 'traced back almost to the Conquest.' The compiler does not seem to be aware that HUBERTUS DE LA FELD was in England within a year or two of that event, and, in all probability, came over with the Conqueror. He was of the family of the Counts DE LA FELD, of Colmar, in Alsatia, on the German border of France, who trace back to the darkest period of the middle ages, about the sixth century. Probably, not a dozen families in Europe can prove so high an antiquity."

[A printed account, prepared by Mr. OSGOOD FIELD, says, that the ancestors of this HUBERTUS DE LA FELD—"the progenitor of the English DE LA FIELDS"—"had been seated at the Chateau de la Feld,

* He is the son of MOSES FIELD, of New York, a citizen well known for his wealth and benevolence, who died a few years since; and belongs to that branch of the family descended from ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, L. I.

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near Colmar, in Alsatia, for centuries before, and so early as the darkest period which followed the fall of the Roman Empire. Here, one of them entertained, in the 11th century, Pope Leo IX. and his Court, on his way to consecrate the Cathedral of Strasburg. The edifice received many benefactions at their hands, and several of them are interred here in the chantries they founded.

"So early as the third year of WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, 1068, HUBERTUS DE LA FELD held lands in the county of Lancaster, probably granted to him for military services. In the twelfth year of HENRY I., JOHN DE LA FELD appears as the owner of lands in the same county.

"The first appearance of the FIELDS, without the prefix 'de la,' in this neighborhood, is in that part of the West Riding of Yorkshire which borders upon Lancashire; and I am inclined to think, from the fact of their progress from west to east, and from other reasons, that they came from the latter county."

"In speaking of the identity of this family with the FIELDS, I would observe that I do not remember to have met with the name FELD, without a prefix, earlier than about 1400,* and besides the fact of the FIELDS appearing where the DE LA FIELDS were located at an earlier date, (of which I could add several instances to those given), the arms of the DELAFIELDS, of Audley, County Hereford, are almost the same as those of the modern family, viz: 'Sable, 3 garbs argent.' The chevron was often used in heraldry, for what is termed a 'difference,' i. e., to distinguish branches of one family.

"The arms of JOHN FIELD, the astronomer, are incorrectly drawn. In the crest, the arm should be horizontal, and the sphere should not be grasped, but held by the projection of the axis. The enclosed sketch, taken from the original grant, will best explain my meaning. The chevron should be plain—I believe the coloring on the engraving is *or*. Now, although the FIELDS of Oxfordshire had

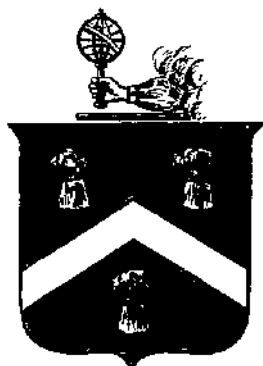
* "The prefix 'de la' was dropped by many families in England during the 14th century, in consequence of the wars with France having made it unpopular."

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the chevron or, the arms confirmed to the astronomer had not. The **FIELDS**, of Hertfordshire, had it 'engrailed.' These slight variations are the heraldic 'differences' previously referred to.



"The earliest mention of the name in this immediate neighborhood, is that of **WILLIAM FELD**, whose estate was administered by his wife **KATHERINE**, April 21, 1480. Half a century later I find the **FELDS**, **FIELDS** and **FIELDS** established at four or five points within a radius of ten miles from Bradford, including the father of **JOHN FIELD**, the Astronomer, at Ardsley, about seven miles from Great Horton, where my immediate ancestors were. We are related to, but not descended from that distinguished man, and entitled to the arms confirmed to him, but strictly speaking not to the crest.*

* Mr. **FIELD** seems to be lost in attempting to trace the family of **JOHN FIELD**, and in a brief account which he furnished lately to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, supplementary to the article published in 1834, he says, "I am unable to say if any of his descendants, in the male line, are now living." Perhaps he will reconsider his opinion after reading the testimonies which follow. It will gratify, as much as surprise him, to learn, by undoubted evidence, that there

"From the uncle of ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, descend the FIELDS of Heaton Hall, &c., about four miles from Horton. This branch has been usually confined to one heir male, and as the last and only member of it, JOHN WILMER FIELD, left but two children, both daughters, married to the EARL of ROSE and the HON. ARTHUR DUNCOMBE, M. P., our branch now represents the FIELDS, of Heaton, as well as the parent family of Horton."

Mr. FIELD has published an account of the FIELDS in England, much more full than that I have given, and which it would be very important to include in a more general history of the family.

This little book also led to the following letter being addressed to Rev. Dr. FIELD, of Stockbridge, by Mr. RICHARD FIELD, of Brooklyn, a gentleman well known to many of the oldest and most respectable citizens of New York :

"BROOKLYN, Jan. 20, 1862.

"*My much respected, though unknown friend:*

"I was recently called on by a gentleman, who introduced himself by informing me that he was a member of the FIELD family, from the State of New Jersey, whose ancestors he had been endeavoring to trace to as early a period as he could; and that he had succeeded no farther than to a JOHN FIELD, who came to New Jersey from Flushing, L. I., more than 150 years ago; that for the purpose of prosecuting his researches, he had recently visited Flushing, but could obtain no satisfactory information in relation to the object of his inquiry. He learned that the old records of the town, in which he hoped to find accounts of the early settlement of that place,

are male descendants now living; that he himself is one of them, and therefore entitled, not only to the arms conferred to the astronomer, but also to the crest; and further, that this same eminent man is the ancestor of the principal families of FIELDS in America.

had been destroyed by fire many years since. He finally met with some one who advised him to call on me, as I could probably furnish him with the desired information. He accordingly did call, and I had the satisfaction to furnish him with the information, that the JOHN FIELD who removed from Flushing was the son of ANTHONY FIELD, of Flushing; that ANTHONY FIELD, his brother BENJAMIN, and father ROBERT, with a number of others, were named in a patent of confirmation obtained from Governor NICOLL, for the town of Flushing, dated Feb. 18th, 1666; that ROBERT FIELD only was named in the original patent obtained from Governor KIEFT (that is, ROBERT only of the FIELDS). He, with a number of others, obtained the original patent from the Governor, or rather Director-General, of New Netherlands, as New York was then called. ROBERT FIELD's sons, ANTHONY and BENJAMIN, were then children at that date (Oct. 19th, 1645). He was further informed, that ROBERT FIELD, father of ANTHONY, was the son of JAMES FIELD, and grandson of MATTHEW FIELD, of Ardsley, York County, England, and that MATTHEW FIELD was the son of JOHN FIELD, of Ardsley, formerly of London, the celebrated astronomer.

"In the course of this interview, the gentleman showed me a publication, which had recently fallen into his hands, entitled 'The Family of the Rev. D. D. FIELD, &c.' He was so kind as to leave with me the volume for a short time. I was highly gratified in its perusal, but regretted to find the author had not been able to procure the necessary data, to carry him out in tracing his ancestors at least two generations beyond ZACHARIAH FIELD. I have for a long time been in possession of information, which perfectly satisfied me that ZACHARIAH was, beyond question, the grandson of JOHN FIELD, the astronomer, of Ardsley.

"On further reflection, I concluded I would call on CYRUS W. FIELD, with whom I had no personal acquaintance, but whom I had known by sight for many years, and still more by reputation, for a few years back, from his connection with the Atlantic cable enterprise, believing it would be a satisfaction to him and to his connections to be assured that ZACHARIAH FIELD was, beyond doubt, the

grandson of JOHN FIELD, the astronomer. I accordingly called on C. W. FIELD, and showed him the memoranda of which the inclosed are copies. He appeared to consider the information conveyed in them as perfectly satisfactory and conclusive as to the fact that JOHN FIELD, the astronomer, was clearly shown to be the grandfather of ZACHARIAH FIELD. He expressed a desire to be furnished with copies of the memoranda, that he might forward them to his father, who he thought would be much interested in the information they furnished."

[Mr. FIELD then details a plan which had been suggested for getting up a genealogical family tree, of which JOHN FIELD, the astronomer, should form the trunk, and his descendants the branches, for which purpose information was invited in regard to "the names of those who can trace their ancestors back to either ZACHARIAH FIELD, who came out to Boston about the year 1632—to WILLIAM or JOHN FIELD, who came to Rhode Island shortly afterwards—or to ROBERT FIELD, who arrived in Boston in 1644, and settled in Flushing in 1645."]

The writer of this letter afterwards did me the kindness to call upon me, and to show me the proofs which made the ancestry of the FIELDS of this country so clear and plain to him. Within the last two years I have seen him many times, and have been equally surprised and gratified by the extent of his information. As I am chiefly indebted to him for the facts which follow, it is right to let the reader know the character and standing of my informant. Mr. RICHARD FIELD is an old merchant of New York, to which he came more than half a century ago. He was for twenty-two years, from 1828 to 1845, in partnership with CHARLES C. THOMPSON. The firm was FIELD, THOMPSON & Co. He was in business in Pearl Street,

where Platt Street is now cut through. From 1829 to 1845 he was in Cedar Street. He is now retired from business, being nearly 72 years old. The house is still continued in the firm of FIELD, MORRIS & Co., 345 Broadway, his two sons being partners. For the last twenty-five years he has lived in Brooklyn, where he still resides, at No. 109 Willow Street. He is connected with many of the public institutions of that city, and for some years has discharged the responsible duties of President of the Brooklyn City Hospital.

At these interviews, Mr. FIELD showed me many ancient and curious documents containing autograph signatures of his ancestors—one of them under date of 1692, contains the signatures of his grandfather's great-grandfather, and of his grandmother's great-grandfather; others contain the signatures of his father's great-grandfather, BENJAMIN FIELD, and of several of his lineal descendants, as well as collateral branches of the family. Among these was one [copied on the next page] which came from his grandmother, giving the date of the birth of BENJAMIN FIELD, in 1663, and extending back in a direct line through his ancestors, ANTHONY, ROBERT, JAMES, and MATTHEW, to JOHN FIELD the astronomer, giving the date of the birth of each. There is also a document executed by his great-grandfather, ROBERT FIELD, son of BENJAMIN, born in 1707, being the manumission of a slave, in which he says, "upon considering the case of negroes now in slavery, believing they should be free, I do hereby declare, &c.," discharging his slave from all claims of himself or his heirs.

These old papers are kept by Mr. FIELD with religious care, as they enable him to trace back his ancestors, in an unbroken line, for more than three hundred years, and to find a great and honored name as that of the founder of the family.

The following are the testimonies referred to in the letter of Mr. FIELD, which, in his view, establish the fact that the FIELDS in this country—at least those descended from ZACHARIAH, WILLIAM, JOHN, or ROBERT FIELD—were all descended from JOHN FIELD the astronomer :

Copy of an old Record belonging to Mr. RICHARD FIELD, which came from his grandmother, and which has probably been in the family more than 100 years. The water mark, G. R., with the crown, shows that the paper was made when the United States were Colonies of Great Britain.

BENJAMIN FIELD was born in Flushing, in the year 1663, was the son of ANTHONY and SUSANNA FIELD. He had a brother JOHN, a few years older than himself, who removed to the Jerseys and settled there. His father, ANTHONY FIELD, was born in England, in 1638, and came out with his father ROBERT FIELD, to Boston, in 1644, and came to Flushing in 1645, together with his brother ROBERT, who was born in 1636, and BENJAMIN, born in 1640.

ROBERT, father of ANTHONY, was born at Ardsley, in England, in 1610. He had a brother JAMES, and two sisters, ANNE and JUDITH. JAMES FIELD, father of ROBERT, was born at Ardsley, in 1587. He was the son of MATTHEW FIELD, and had a brother ROBERT, younger than himself. MATTHEW FIELD, father of JAMES, was born at Ardsley, in 1563. He had seven brothers, whose names were—RICHARD, older than himself, and CHRISTOPHER, JOHN, WILLIAM, THOMAS, JAMES and MARTIN, and a sister ANNE, who were younger. JOHN FIELD, father of MATTHEW, was born about 1525. He lived in London, where it is believed he was born, until about 1560, when he married JANE ANYAS, daughter of JOHN ANYAS, and removed to Ardsley, where he resided till his death, in 1587. While he resided in London, he was engaged in publishing astronomical tables, by which he gained a very high reputation as an astronomer.

STATEMENT OF JOSIAH FIELD.

JOSIAH FIELD, was an uncle of RICHARD FIELD, and of course, like him, was a descendant of the Flushing Fields. He was born in 1774, in the town of Greenwich, Conn., just over the line of the State of New York, and was the son of URIAH FIELD. He came to New York City about the year 1815, and here continued to reside until his death in 1858 or 9. He was a dealer in hides, and was well known to the leather merchants in "the swamp," as Ferry Street, with its vicinity, was then called. His place of business was in Elizabeth Street.

JOSIAH FIELD's statement of a conversation with an old gentleman of the Massachusetts branch of the FIELD family, about the year 1830.

JOSIAH FIELD stated, that he was one day standing at the door of his place of business when he was accosted by an old gentleman who was passing, with the inquiry whether his name was FIELD, and who, on receiving an affirmative reply, remarked that he supposed so from seeing the name on the sign board. He said his object in making the inquiry, was to learn whether he was a descendant of the Flushing branch of the FIELD family, and whether he could trace them back beyond ROBERT FIELD, one of the first proprietors of the Town of Flushing?

JOSIAH FIELD replied, that he was from the Flushing branch of the family, and that he could trace them back three generations beyond ROBERT FIELD, with entire certainty. That ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, was the son of JAMES FIELD; that JAMES FIELD was the son of MATTHEW FIELD, of Ardsley; and that MATTHEW FIELD was the son of JOHN FIELD, the astronomer. ✓

The old gentleman then inquired whether he could inform him whether JAMES FIELD, son of MATTHEW, had any brothers? JOSIAH

FIELD informed him, that JAMES had but one brother, whose name was ROBERT.

Inquiry was then made as to the brothers of MATTHEW FIELD. In reply it was stated, that MATTHEW had a large number of brothers, some six or seven, a list of whose names could be obtained from a relative of his. JOSIAH FIELD stated, that he could recollect the names of several. There was one named RICHARD, one JOHN, another WILLIAM, and another MARTIN.

The old gentleman then inquired whether JOSIAH FIELD had any certain information, as to the family relationship between ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, and ZACHARIAH FIELD who emigrated to Boston some years earlier than ROBERT FIELD's settlement at Flushing? JOSIAH FIELD replied, that he had not, but that there was a tradition that had come down through the families of the Flushing FIELDS, that ZACHARIAH FIELD was related to ROBERT, but not so near as first cousin; that they were descendants from the same stock within a few generations, he had no doubt.

The old gentleman then informed JOSIAH FIELD, that he was of the Massachusetts branch of the FIELD family, and that the information now obtained (if reliable) settled a very important question, which had rested in his mind for a great length of time, that is whether ZACHARIAH FIELD was a descendant of JOHN FIELD, the astronomer—that if it were fully established that ROBERT FIELD was the grandson of MATTHEW, and that MATTHEW had a brother JOHN, he was perfectly satisfied, that both ZACHARIAH and ROBERT were the descendants of JOHN FIELD the astronomer, the former his grandson, the latter his great-grandson, for he well remembered, when he was a boy, of hearing a conversation between his grandfather and two still older members of the FIELD family, in which they all agreed, as a settled matter of fact, that the father of ZACHARIAH FIELD and the grandfather of ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, were brothers, and that the name of the father of ZACHARIAH was JOHN.

JOSIAH FIELD remarked, that the information respecting the ancestors of ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, might be relied on as beyond question; that an original account of the transactions of RO-

ROBERT FIELD, in the settlement of Flushing, including a notice of his ancestors, was deposited with the records of the town of Flushing, where they remained more than a hundred years, when unfortunately, in the year 1789, the building in which they were deposited, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire. Much valuable information was thus irretrievably lost, but the descendants of ROBERT FIELD, or at least some of them, had, for their own satisfaction, obtained from these records a list of their ancestors, back to JOHN FIELD, the astronomer. These lists were very defective on some accounts, containing little more than the names of the parties with the years of their birth, not furnishing any account of their occupations, and in many instances, no date as to the time of their death. These omissions continued to about the year 1700.

The old gentleman on leaving, said he would call again in a few days, when he would like to obtain a memorandum of the ancestors of ROBERT FIELD, and that, in return, he could furnish some interesting accounts of the Massachusetts branch of the FIELD family. He left his card and stated that he was residing temporarily with a friend of his in Harlem, whose place he described with an intimation that he would be gratified with a call from JOSIAH FIELD, if he should at any time be in that vicinity.

JOSIAH FIELD was anticipating a call from his old friend but new acquaintance for some weeks, but he did not make his appearance. JOSIAH FIELD finally called on a relative of his, to go with him to Harlem and look after him. On reaching the place, they learned that the old gentleman had a day or two previously gone to Troy to spend a few days with the intention of returning very soon. He, however, never did return. He died suddenly, either at Troy, or on his way back.

JOSIAH FIELD mislaid his card, but was pretty certain the old gentleman's name was HENRY FIELD.

JOSIAH FIELD, died some years since at about the age of 84 years.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE CORLIES.

GEORGE CORLIES was born in 1754. A large part of his life he spent in New York. Mr. RICHARD FIELD says that he came to New York in 1811, and knew CORLIES almost from that time. Twenty years ago he was still living, and was well known. He was a mason, but a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and of most respectable character.

Statement of GEORGE CORLIES, in relation to information obtained from an old lady of the FIELD family, a resident of Newtown, L. I., in the year 1842, at which time she was over 90 years old. Her name was MARGARET SMITH, formerly FIELD. She was the widow of ISAAC SMITH, and grand-daughter of ELNATHAN FIELD, who was son of ROBERT FIELD, Jr., of Newtown, L. I., and grandson of ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing. The information obtained was from her replies to certain written queries furnished Mr. CORLIES by RICHARD FIELD, principally in relation to his lineal ancestors, with but little regard to their collateral branches. The information elicited was taken down at the time by Mr. CORLIES, in writing.

She said she was born in Flushing, and that her grandfather was a grandson of ROBERT FIELD, one of the first proprietors of that town. That in early life she spent much of her time at her grandfather's, who was excessively fond of talking about his ancestors; and she heard him so frequently repeat accounts of their early history, that she could remember, with great distinctness, many items of information which, he said, he obtained directly from his grandfather, ROBERT FIELD. Among these were the following: That his (R. F.'s) father's name was JAMES FIELD, and that his grandfather's name was MATTHEW FIELD, and that MATTHEW had no less than seven brothers; that these brothers and their children had become widely scattered, many of them having left Ardsley previously to ROBERT FIELD's coming to America; that MATTHEW and all his

brothers were born in Ardsley, to which place their father, JOHN FIELD, had removed about the time of his marriage, having previously been a resident of London, where he was born about the year 1525, and where he resided between 30 and 40 years; and it was there that he published his astronomical works. She further said that she remembered distinctly that MATTHEW FIELD had a brother JOHN, whose son, ZACCHEUS,* emigrated to this country, according to the statement of ROBERT FIELD, about a dozen years before he did, and that he came out to the Bay State, where he remained but a short time. At the time of the arrival of ROBERT FIELD, he was residing somewhere in the colony of Connecticut. She also stated that MATTHEW's brother WILLIAM had two sons, who came to this country very soon after their cousin ZACCHEUS; that they came to Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; that one of these sons was named after his father, and the other after his grandfather. She related many anecdotes, in relation to family matters, which are of little interest at this time.

GEORGE CORLISS died about the year 1847, at about the age of 93 years.

* ZACCHEUS—doubtless ZACHARIAH. On this, Mr. RICHARD FIELD observes: "There can be no reasonable doubt but that CORLISS misunderstood the name given by the old lady, or that she inadvertently miscalled it, as she fixes the time and place of emigration precisely corresponding with that of ZACHARIAH; and it would be a perfect absurdity to suppose that there could have been two persons of so nearly the same name, arriving in Boston about the same time, and that nobody to this day should ever have heard of it. The account of the emigration of the two sons of MATTHEW FIELD's brother WILLIAM I also consider perfectly reliable, confirmed, as it is, by the fact that two brothers of corresponding names are known to have arrived in Rhode Island just about the time designated in this account."

These testimonies create at least a strong probability, especially as they are confirmed by all we learn from other sources. One slight fact, which has just come to my knowledge, points this way. Hon. RICHARD FIELD, of Princeton, New Jersey, late U. S. Senator from that State, and now Judge of the U. S. District Court, on seeing the coat of arms printed in this little volume, was at once struck with its resemblance to a seal which had been in his family for generations. The arms were exactly the same, and the crest also, except that the arm was horizontal, as Mr. Osgood FIELD says it ought to be. On one side of the seal are the initials, R. F., which are undoubtedly those of ROBERT FIELD, of Flushing, from whom the New Jersey FIELDS are descended. How came ROBERT FIELD in possession of this very peculiar crest, which was never given to but one man? Plainly, because he was a direct descendant. This establishes the fact, beyond all doubt, that the Flushing and New Jersey FIELDS—and hence, according to the other testimonies here given, the other families in this country also—are descended from JOHN FIELD, the astronomer.

